

**CLAIMS****WE CLAIM:**

1. A method for controlling communications to an access terminal, comprising:  
5     applying a first treatment to a packet flow and transmitting the first treated packet flow to  
       the access terminal; and  
       applying a second treatment to a duplicate of the packet flow and transmitting the second  
       treated duplicate packet flow to the access terminal during a hand off period.
- 10     2. The method of claim 1 wherein the first and second treatments are maintained in a  
       data structure in a router.
3. The method of claim 2 wherein the data structure is maintained or updated according  
       to commands or instructions from one or more radio network controllers.
- 15     4. The method of claim 2 wherein the data structure is maintained or updated according  
       to commands or instructions from the access terminal.
5. The method of claim 3 wherein the first treatment is stored according to commands or  
20     instructions from a first radio network controller where the first treatment is used for packet  
       flows destined to the first radio network controller and the second treatment is stored  
       according to commands or instructions from a second radio network controller where the  
       second treatment is used for packet flows destined to the second radio network controller.

6. The method of claim 2 wherein the first treatment is removed from the data structure after the completion of the hand off from a first radio network controller to a second radio network controller.

5        7. The method of claim 2 where the first treatment remains resident in the data structure after the completion of the hand off from a first radio network controller to a second radio network controller, so that it remains available for use in the event of a ping pong hand off back to the first radio network controller.

10       8. The method of claim 1 where the first and second treatments comprise at least one of a compression technique, a quality of service specification, a service instance mapping, and a packet data protocol context mapping.

15       9. A method of controlling communications from an access terminal, comprising:  
applying a first treatment to a packet flow while attached to a first radio network controller;  
applying a second treatment to a duplicate packet flow while attached to a second radio network controller during a hand off period.

20       10. The method of claim 9 wherein the first and second treatments are maintained in a data structure within the access terminal.

11. The method of claim 10 wherein the data structure is maintained according to commands or instructions from one or more radio network controllers.

12. The method of claim 11 wherein the data structure is maintained according to commands or instructions from one or more routers.

5        13. The method of claim 12 wherein the first treatment is stored according to commands or instructions from a first radio network controller where the first treatment is used for packet flows destined to the first radio network controller and the second treatment is stored according to commands or instructions from a second radio network controller where the second treatment is used for packet flows destined to the second radio network controller.

10        14. The method of claim 10 wherein the first treatment is removed from the data structure after the completion of the hand off from a first radio network controller to a second radio network controller.

15        15. The method of claim 11 where the first treatment remains resident in the data structure after the completion of the hand off from a first radio network controller to a second radio network controller, so that it remains available for use in the event of a ping pong hand off back to the first radio network controller.

20        16. The method of claim 9 wherein the first and second treatments comprise one or more of a compression technique, a quality of service specification, a service instance mapping, or a packet data protocol context mapping.